

Appendix H Anti-Poverty Strategy



Consolidated Housing and Community Development Plan 2010 – 2012

Anti-Poverty Strategy

Poverty is an income issue related to living wage jobs and the economic health of communities, the region and the nation. Broad economic strategies and job creation programs are the primary responsibility of the federal and state governments. The consortium is limited in the direct affect that it can have on the rate of poverty in our region.

The consortium's goals and objectives primarily have an indirect effect on jobs and poverty. Most of our programs help to relieve economic burdens on households, such as housing cost burden, and help to support them to become more stable, and potentially more equipped to find jobs or higher-paying jobs. However, these programs do not affect poverty without an adequate number of living wage jobs. The consortium jurisdictions communicate, consult and plan with community partners and a host of other public and private agencies. Partners work to help households move out of poverty and in some cases create jobs that will alleviate poverty.

A. Consortium objectives and strategies that indirectly fight poverty and its effects

- Affordable housing units may decrease the rental cost burden on households and help to stabilize them.
- Improved housing stock may make deteriorated areas more viable for economic development and new jobs.
- Repair programs for home owners allow households to secure financing to fix their home through non-amortizing loans so that the household does not have to expend limited income on costly monthly loan payments.
- First-time homebuyer program allows low to moderate income households to gain equity in a home and begin to create some wealth.
- Responsible lending educational work and remedies help to keep households from being stripped of the investment or equity in their home, or losing their home.
- Homelessness prevention programs help to keep households from being propelled into homelessness and losing their job and stability.
- Shelters, transitional housing and related services help households to get back on their feet, and, in many cases, stay employed, if homelessness occurs.
- Permanent supportive housing helps formerly homeless households with a disability to become stable and perhaps secure a job in the future.
- Improving the ability of health and human service agencies to serve our low and moderate income residents helps households to take care of emergency and crisis needs, as well as to plan for longer term needs for greater stability and the ability to move out of poverty.
- Improving public infrastructure makes our communities healthier and safer and, in some cases, more viable for economic activities that can increase local jobs.

- Neighborhood revitalization strategies, such as those in place for White Center (see Appendix L), will help to make high poverty, deteriorated neighborhoods in the Consortium attractive for new investments, and to create new jobs and economic opportunities.
- Assisting small and/or economically disadvantaged businesses in predominantly low to moderate income communities with improvements to their commercial property may help to revive a deteriorated commercial area and retain or increase jobs.
- Assisting low to moderate income persons in obtaining job skills and employment services helps households to find work or secure a better-paying job.

B. Consortium objectives and strategies that directly affect job retention or creation

Directly assisting businesses with technical assistance, and/or financial assistance helps businesses to remain viable or expand to create new jobs.

C. Partnerships and initiatives supported by King County and/or the consortium jurisdictions

- The King County Jobs Initiative is a means of reducing poverty by helping people get and keep jobs, currently serving residents of the highest poverty areas in South King County. Beginning in 2010 this program will focus on providing jobs to the ex-inmate population of the county.
- The Committee to End Homeless has developed a Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in King County.
- Growth Management Planning: the Growth Management Planning Council is working to plan for housing/jobs balance throughout the County so that jurisdictions' housing and employment targets correlate, and there is an adequate supply of affordable housing located in the proximity of jobs.
- King County and the consortium have supported the King County Housing Authority's (KCHA) effort to revitalize the distressed community of White Center, and to redevelop Park Lake Homes into a mixed-income community with public housing dispersed throughout. The KCHA also secures grants and partners with a number of agencies to provide service resources for its residents, especially services that are designed to increase economic self-sufficiency.

